

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

I. THE OCCURRENCE OF THE FLYING-FOX (*PTEROPUS GIGANTEUS*) IN THE PUNJAB.

1. Very numerous during the mango season throughout Gurdaspur District, Punjab.

2. Numerous while the guava trees were in fruit.

3. Few about in early September. Never seen after the 19th September.

4. No resting places discovered in the plains of Gurdaspur District, but Flying Foxes were gradually traced to Kotla, which is 30 miles from Pathankote on the Kangra Valley road. Gurdaspur is 23 miles from Pathankote. It therefore appears that these creatures travel long distances daily.

GURDASPUR,
26th October 1931.

C. BREADON,
District Engineer.

There was some correspondence in the *Civil and Military Gazette* a few months ago regarding the distribution of Flying Foxes in the Punjab. Blanford in his *Mammalia* states that they are not known to occur in the Punjab and that they are not found in the Himalayas except at the base as a visitor from the plains. Presumably changed conditions in the Punjab since Blanford's time, improvements in irrigation and the extension of horticulture have provided conditions which enabled the Flying Fox to establish itself in this Province. Writing in this connection Lt.-Col. J. E. M. Boyd says: "During the past 20 years I have frequently seen them at Ferozepore, where they come in when the fruit of the *Pipul* is ripe and also at Pathankote, Gurdaspur District. This year (1931) Flying Foxes have been seen in large numbers flying round the fruit trees at the British Military Hospital, Dalhousie." Recently the Society received a specimen of a Flying Fox from Mr. A. E. Jones, Simla. It is an example of the Nepal race *P. giganteus leucocephalus*.—EDS.]

II.—NUMBER OF CUBS IN A TIGER'S LITTER.

During December, 1930, Mr. Walter Draper of our Factory went out in his car for a jaunt in the country. Being a very keen shikari, he always takes his guns with him. About 30 miles out of Jubbulpore, he came across a likely looking spot and descended to try his luck with a view to securing some game birds for the 'pot'. On leaving the car, he and his friend walked about a couple of hundred yards from the main road, where they halted, and while discussing the best pathway to take, they heard the unmistakable sound of a large animal treading on dried leaves. The jungle here being pretty thick, it was difficult to get a clear view of the country round about. On turning round in the direction from which the sound originated, Mr. Draper caught a glimpse of the head and shoulders of a tigress as she passed broadside on. Following up the direction she was making for, he noticed an opening in the thick scrub, and realising she would soon come into view, he